

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

The written description portion of the specification, claims 1-7, and the abstract of the disclosure have been amended. New claims 8-10 have been added. Claims 1-10 are now pending in the application. Claims 1 and 8 are independent. The objections and rejection are respectfully submitted to be obviated in view of the amendments and remarks presented herein. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

The specification has been editorially amended for conformance with 37 CFR § 1.77(c), for consistency, and to correct any informalities. The abstract has been editorially amended for conformance with 37 CFR § 1.72(b). Claims 1-7 have been amended in response to the objections and in general to more fully comply with U.S. practice. New claims 8-10 have been added to further define the scope of protection sought for Applicants' invention. Entry of each of the amendments is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) - Thöle

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by GB 2327252 of Thöle.

The rejection of claims 1-7 under § 102(b) based on Thöle is respectfully traversed. For at least the following reasons, the

disclosure of Thöle does not anticipate Applicants' claimed invention.

Thöle's device is structurally different from Applicants' claimed printing unit. Thöle does not disclose, *inter alia*, Applicants' claimed printing unit having at least one replaceable roller mandrel. Thöle discloses simply a "shaft" (reference number 1). The shaft is not shown or explained to be replaceable. That is not Applicants' claimed invention.

As disclosed by Applicants at specification page 2/6, "[t]he object of the present invention is therefore to suggest a generic printing unit, in which *the roller mandrel of the printing or screen roller can be exchanged essentially rapidly*" (emphasis added). Thöle's invention is directed to a completely different situation than is the Applicants'. Thöle deals with the replacement of a cylinder shell 7 of the printing cylinders or of the distributor rollers on the shaft.

Accordingly, Thöle fails to teach other features of Applicants' claimed invention. For example, Thöle does not disclose a coupling device which receives the coupling location of the roller mandrel. Therefore, Thöle fails to teach that the coupling device transmits the torque required for rotating the roller mandrel. Thöle also fails to teach Applicants' claimed feature that either the roller mandrel or the coupling device is tapered in the axial direction.

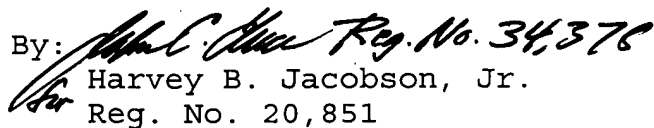
Since Thöle does not meet each feature of the claimed invention, Thöle does not anticipate the invention defined by Applicants' instant claim 1. Claims 2-7 are allowable because they depend from claim 1, and for other reasons.

New claims 8-10 have been added to further define the scope of protection sought for Applicants' invention. Support for the new claims is found in the description at specification page 4/6 and in Figure 2. New claims 8-10 are also allowable. Since independent claim 8 includes at least the features discussed above with respect to the rejection based on Thöle, the reference neither anticipates nor would have rendered obvious the machine defined by any of claims 8-10. Furthermore, claim 8 defines an embodiment of Applicants' invention in which the coupling device includes the gear wheel feature. Thöle fails to teach Applicants' claimed gear wheel feature.

In view of the foregoing, this application is now in condition for allowance. If the examiner believes that an interview might expedite prosecution, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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